



EASTON

Bristol County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Easton is a pretty, pleasant suburban community now, but the town began its history as the rough frontier of the Taunton North Purchase and acted as the hunting, fishing and lumbering preserve of early Taunton settlers. Permanent settlement by colonists about 1695 and formal establishment of the town in 1725 led to an impassioned controversy over the location of the town meeting house, which split the early community.

The town's industrial history essentially begins with the discovery of bog iron which made Easton part of an important late 17th and 18th century iron producing region in southwestern Massachusetts. The first commercial steel made in the colonies was said to have been made in Easton and was evidently used for muskets. In 1803 the Ames Shovel Company was established, and became nationally known as having provided the shovels which laid the Union Pacific Railroad and opened the west. In 1875 the shovel production of the Ames plant was worth \$1.5 million. The Ames family not only shaped the town's economy but also its geography and architecture. In the late 19th century, the family created a remarkable legacy by donating several landmark buildings to the town. This was remarkable not only for its benevolence, but for its architectural significance, since the nationally known architect H.H. Richardson designed Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, the library and the Old Colony Railroad building which now houses the Easton Historical Society, in the impressive Romanesque style. The community has carefully preserved these buildings, as part of the proud heritage of the town. The Ames family also built shops and company housing. In addition, Ames family estates effectively maintained large tracts of open space in the community.

Through most of its history the town has retained a small but healthy industrial base that featured the production of the Morse automobile between 1902 and 1914, cotton and thread mills, machine shops making piano casings and piano machinery, and the location of the spring supplying the oldest carbonated beverage company in the country. Despite this industrial activity, the town remained largely rural in feeling. Suburban development since World War II has brought in a significant number of new residents.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Sharon and Stoughton on the north; Brockton and West Bridgewater on the east; Raynham, Taunton, and Norton on the south and southwest; and Mansfield on the west. Easton is located 4 miles west of Brockton, 24 miles south of Boston, and 201 miles from New York City

Total Area: 29.18 sq. miles

Land Area: 28.44 sq. miles

Population: 19,807

Density: 696 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Taunton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.7"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Brockton, Mansfield, Taunton, Norton

Regional Planning Agency

Old Colony

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Brockton



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 230-3300

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1725

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	11,319		
Democrats	2,806	24.8	%
Republicans	2,289	20.2	%
Other parties	1	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	6,223	55.0	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Easton town, Bristol County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	22,299	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	22,299	100.0
Male.....	10,840	48.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	352	1.6
Female.....	11,459	51.4	Mexican.....	73	0.3
Under 5 years.....	1,457	6.5	Puerto Rican.....	95	0.4
5 to 9 years.....	1,586	7.1	Cuban.....	29	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,539	6.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	155	0.7
15 to 19 years.....	2,005	9.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	21,947	98.4
20 to 24 years.....	1,796	8.1	White alone.....	20,335	91.2
25 to 34 years.....	2,560	11.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	3,840	17.2	Total population.....	22,299	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,460	15.5	In households.....	20,489	91.9
55 to 59 years.....	1,248	5.6	Householder.....	7,489	33.6
60 to 64 years.....	713	3.2	Spouse.....	4,664	20.9
65 to 74 years.....	1,232	5.5	Child.....	6,890	30.9
75 to 84 years.....	627	2.8	Own child under 18 years.....	5,179	23.2
85 years and over.....	236	1.1	Other relatives.....	753	3.4
Median age (years).....	35.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	219	1.0
18 years and over.....	16,848	75.6	Nonrelatives.....	693	3.1
Male.....	8,032	36.0	Unmarried partner.....	323	1.4
Female.....	8,816	39.5	In group quarters.....	1,810	8.1
21 years and over.....	15,163	68.0	Institutionalized population.....	135	0.6
62 years and over.....	2,492	11.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1,675	7.5
65 years and over.....	2,095	9.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	913	4.1	Total households.....	7,489	100.0
Female.....	1,182	5.3	Family households (families).....	5,575	74.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,803	37.4
One race.....	22,096	99.1	Married-couple family.....	4,664	62.3
White.....	20,501	91.9	With own children under 18 years.....	2,377	31.7
Black or African American.....	354	1.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	668	8.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	10	-	With own children under 18 years.....	322	4.3
Asian.....	309	1.4	Nonfamily households.....	1,914	25.6
Asian Indian.....	61	0.3	Householder living alone.....	1,551	20.7
Chinese.....	71	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	517	6.9
Filipino.....	46	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,958	39.5
Japanese.....	11	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,474	19.7
Korean.....	53	0.2	Average household size.....	2.74	(X)
Vietnamese.....	10	-	Average family size.....	3.21	(X)
Other Asian ¹	57	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	7,631	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	-	Occupied housing units.....	7,489	98.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	142	1.9
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	35	0.5
Some other race.....	920	4.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	203	0.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.8	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	7,489	100.0
White.....	20,671	92.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	6,113	81.6
Black or African American.....	418	1.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,376	18.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	56	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.90	(X)
Asian.....	362	1.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.03	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	-			
Some other race.....	993	4.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 194

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Easton is situated in the Greater Brockton Area, which is strategically located between State Route 128 and Interstate 495, the inner and outer loops around Boston. State Routes 3, 24, and 28 provide easy access to the air, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 106, 123, and 138.

Rail

Commuter rail service to Back Bay and South Stations, Boston, is available from the neighboring towns of Mansfield (travel time to BBS: 25-38 min.; 775 MBTA parking spaces) and Stoughton (travel time 30-39 min.; 500 spaces).

Bus

The Council on Aging provides paratransit service to the elderly and disabled. Bloom's Bus Lines provides commuter service from the commuter lot in Easton, RT. 106 & 138, to Boston.

Other

Taunton Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, has a 3,496'x 75' asphalt runway and a 2,350'x 150' gravel runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Mansfield Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, has a 3,496'x 75' asphalt runway and a 2,200'x 100' turf runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

The Children's Museum in Easton
Sullivan Avenue
(508) 230-3789

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Easton-Lincoln Nursing & Rehab. Center
Stonehill Manor Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Village Rest Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.